

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

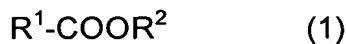
Please set forth the title of the application to read as follows consistent with the title provided on the application and the executed application documents:

--PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR CARBOXYLIC AMIDE AND DERIVATIVES THEREOF--.

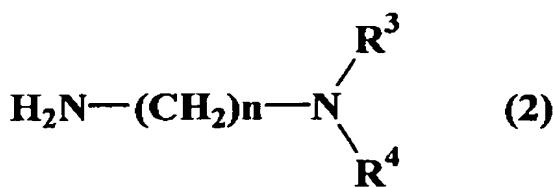
Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, as follows:

That is, the present invention comprises the following items (1) to (5).

(1) A production process for carboxylic amide and derivatives thereof, characterized by reacting higher fatty acid or an ester thereof represented by the following Formula (1) with diamine represented by the following Formula (2) under the presence of 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of an organic phosphonic acid compound ~~or adding the organic phosphonic acid compound after the reaction or after removing excess diamine after the reaction: based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above:~~



in Formula (1) described above, R¹ represents a linear or branched alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group having 5 to 23 carbon atoms, and R² represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a residue obtained by removing one acyloxy group from glyceride;

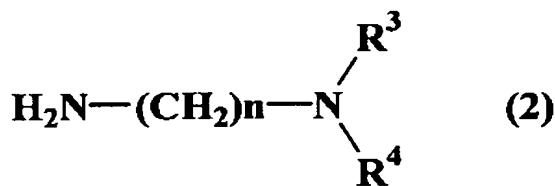


in Formula (2) described above, R³ and R⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and may be the same or different, and n represents a number of 2 to 4.

(2) [[The]] A production process for carboxylic amide and derivatives thereof as described in the above item (1), characterized by reacting higher fatty acid or an ester thereof represented by the following Formula (1) with diamine represented by the following Formula (2) or removing excess diamine after the reaction and then adding 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of an organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above:

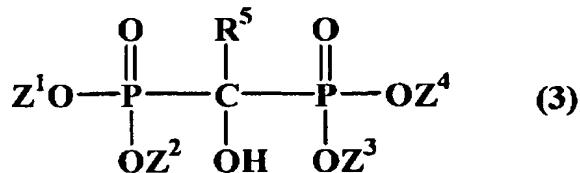


in Formula (1) described above, R¹ represents a linear or branched alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group having 5 to 23 carbon atoms, and R² represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a residue obtained by removing one acyloxy group from glyceride;



in Formula (2) described above, R³ and R⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and may be the same or different, and n represents a number of 2 to 4.

(3) The production process for carboxylic amide and derivatives thereof as described in the above item (1) or (2), wherein the organic phosphonic acid compound is diphosphonic acid or a salt thereof having a structure represented by the following Formula (3):

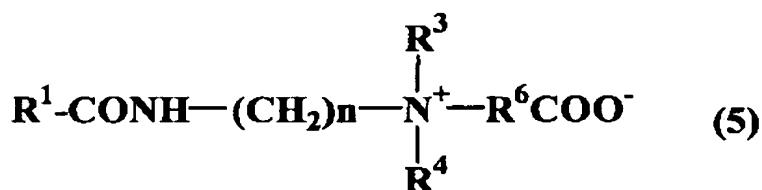


in Formula (3) described above, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 and Z^4 each represent independently a hydrogen atom or an alkaline metal atom.

[(3)] (4) A production process for betaine, characterized by producing betaine represented by the following Formula (5) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in the above item (1) or (2) to (3) with monohaloalkylcarboxylic acid or a salt thereof represented by the following Formula (4):



in Formula (4) described above, Y represents a halogen atom; R^6 represents a linear or branched alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and Z^5 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkaline metal atom;



in Formula (5) described above, R¹, R³, R⁴, R⁶ and n are the same as described above.

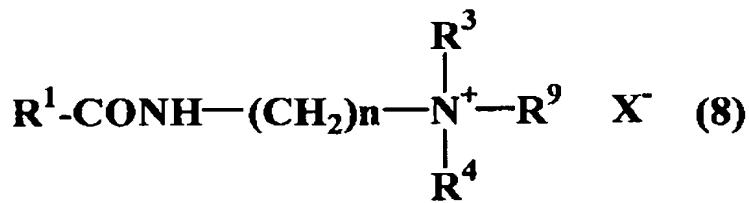
[(4)] (5) A production process for a quaternary ammonium salt, characterized by producing a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following Formula (8) by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in the above item (1) or (2) ~~with alkylhalide to (3) with halogenated alkyl~~ represented by the following Formula (6) or dialkylsulfate represented by the following Formula (7):



in Formula (6) described above, Y represents a halogen atom, and R⁷ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



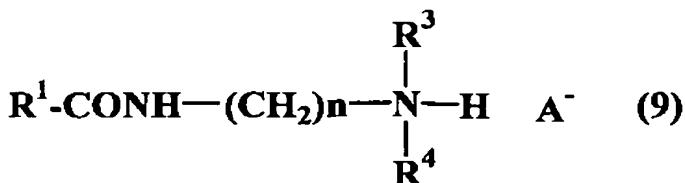
in Formula (7) described above, R⁸ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



in Formula (8) described above, R¹, R³, R⁴ and n represent the same meanings as described above; R⁹ represents R⁷ or R³; and X represents Y or R⁸SO₄.

[(5)] (6) A production process for an amine salt, characterized by producing an

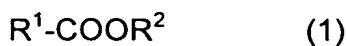
amine salt represented by the following Formula (9) by neutralizing the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process as described in the above item (1) or (2) any of the above items (1) to (3) with at least one neutralizing agent selected from organic acids, inorganic acids and acidic amino acids:



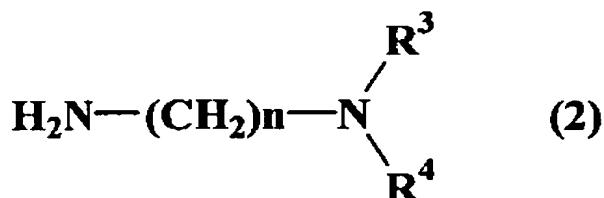
in Formula (9) described above, R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above, and A represents organic acid, inorganic acid or acidic amino acid.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, line 10, as follows:

The production process for carboxylic amide and derivatives thereof according to present invention (hereinafter referred to as "the first present invention") is characterized by reacting higher fatty acid or an ester thereof represented by the following Formula (1) with diamine represented by the following Formula (2) under the presence of an organic phosphonic acid compound or adding the organic phosphonic acid compound after the reaction 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of an organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above or adding 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of the organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above after reacting the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof represented by the following Formula (1) with the diamine represented by the following Formula (2) or after removing excess diamine after the reaction:



in Formula (1) described above, R¹ represents a linear or branched alkyl group, an alkenyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group having 5 to 23 carbon atoms, and R² represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a residue obtained by removing one acyloxy group from glyceride;



in Formula (2) described above, R³ and R⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms and may be the same or different, and n represents a number of 2 to 4.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 10, as follows:

A use amount of the above organic phosphonic acid compound (organic phosphonic acids and/or salts thereof) is 0.001 to 1 mass % (hereinafter "mass %" shall be referred to merely as "%"), preferably 0.003 to [[0.5 %]] 0.1 % and more preferably 0.005 to 0.01 % based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof (fatty acid derivative) each described above.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, line 2, as follows:

In the first present invention, the carboxylic amide and the derivatives thereof in which a color tone and an odor are good and which are excellent in a long term storage stability are obtained by reacting the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof represented by Formula (1) described above with the diamine represented by Formula (2) described above under the presence of ~~the organic phosphonic acid~~

~~compound or adding the organic phosphonic acid compound after the reaction 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of an organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above or adding 0.001 to 0.1 mass % of the organic phosphonic acid compound based on the whole amount of the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof described above after reacting the higher fatty acid or the ester thereof represented by Formula (1) described above with the diamine represented by Formula (2) described above or after removing excess diamine after the reaction.~~

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 19, as follows:

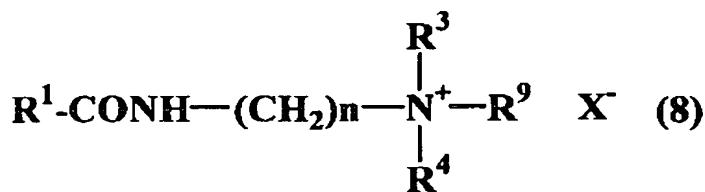
In the production process for a quaternary ammonium salt according to the present invention (hereinafter referred to as "the third present invention"), a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the following Formula (8) in which a hue is markedly good is obtained by reacting the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process described above with alkylhalide represented by the following Formula (6) or dialkylsulfate represented by the following Formula (7):



in Formula (6) described above, Y represents a halogen atom; and R⁷ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



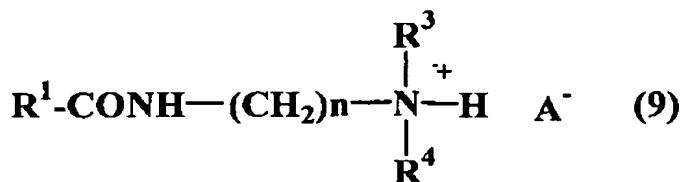
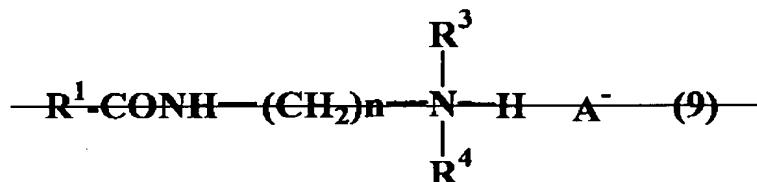
in Formula (7) described above, R⁸ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;



in Formula (8), R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above; R^9 represents R^7 or $[(\text{R}^3)] \text{R}^8$; and X represents Y or R^8SO_4 .

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, line 17, as follows:

Further, in the production process for an amine salt according to the present invention (hereinafter referred to as "the fourth present invention"), an amine salt represented by the following Formula (9) in which a color tone is good can be obtained by neutralizing the carboxylic amide compound obtained by the production process described above with at least one neutralizing agent selected from organic acids, inorganic acids and acidic amino acids:



in Formula (9), R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and n represent the same meanings as described above, and A represents organic acid, inorganic acid or acidic amino acid.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract: